UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X Docket#

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, : 16-mj-00173-RER-1

:

- versus - : U.S. Courthouse

: Brooklyn, New York

BLERIM RAMADAN SKORO, :

Defendant : March 2, 2016

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TRANSCRIPT OF CRIMINAL CAUSE FOR INITIAL APPEARANCE BEFORE THE HONORABLE RAMON E. REYES, JR. UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government: Robert L. Capers, Esq.

United States Attorney

BY: Ryan Harris, Esq.

Keith Edelman, Esq.

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<u>For the Defendant</u>: Joshua L. Dratel, Esq.

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Proceedings recorded by electronic sound-recording, transcript produced by transcription service

2 Proceedings 1 THE CLERK: Criminal Cause for Arraignment on 2 the complaint, United States of America v. Blerim Skoro, 3 16-m-173. Counsel? 4 5 MR. HARRIS: Ryan Harris for the United States. 6 Good afternoon. 7 MR. DRATEL: Good afternoon, your Honor. Joshua Dratel for Mr. Skoro. 8 THE COURT: Good afternoon. 9 10 Mr. Skoro, the purpose of this proceeding is to 11 make sure that you understand the charges that are 12 pending against you, make sure that you understand your 13 rights as a defendant in a criminal case and to address 14 the question of whether you should be released on bail or 15 held in jail until your trial. 16 You have the right to remain silent. You do 17 not have to make a statement to anyone. If you start to 18 make a statement, you can stop at any time. If you have 19 made statements in the past, you are not required to make 20 statements in the future. 21 Any statements that you do make, however, can 22 and will be used against you in your case except for 23 statements that you make to your attorney and those are 24 privileged. 25 Do you understand?

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3
                            Proceedings
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
 1
 2
              THE COURT: Okay. You also have the right to
 3
   be represented by an attorney throughout your case.
   understand that you have retained Mr. Dratel to represent
 4
 5
         If at some point in time, you can no longer to
 6
   afford to retain him, you can ask the Court to appoint an
 7
   attorney to represent you and if you are eligible
 8
    financially, the Court will appoint an attorney for you.
 9
              Do you understand?
10
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
11
              THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Skoro, you've been
12
   charged in a complaint with illegal reentry into the
13
   United States.
14
              Have you seen a copy of the complaint, the
15
    charging documents?
16
              THE DEFENDANT: (No verbal response).
17
              THE COURT: Did Mr. Dratel go over the charges
18
   with you?
19
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
20
              THE COURT: Do you understand the charges?
21
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
22
              THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Dratel, you've had these
    discussions with Mr. Skoro?
23
24
              MR. DRATEL: I have, your Honor.
25
              THE COURT: Satisfied that he understands the
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4
                            Proceedings
 1
   charges and his rights?
 2
              MR. DRATEL: Yes, your Honor.
 3
              THE COURT: Okay. In light of Mr. Skoro's
 4
   immigration status, I take it you do not have a bail
 5
   package to present, or maybe I am wrong.
 6
              MR. DRATEL: We do.
 7
              THE COURT: Okay.
 8
              MR. HARRIS: Yes.
 9
              THE COURT: All right. Let me hear first from
10
   the government then. What's the government's position
11
   with respect to bail?
12
              MR. HARRIS: Your Honor, the government is
13
   requesting that the defendant be detained. He has no
14
   status in the United States. He's previously been
15
    deported and nonetheless returned.
16
              And so, just based on a review of the
17
   complaint, the defendant has a serious criminal history
18
   involving conspiracy to import heroin. He served a
19
   substantial period of time for that, was removed and is
20
   here again. He has a strong incentive to flee and for
21
    those reasons, we are requesting that the defendant be
22
   detained.
23
              I would also -- nothing else, your Honor.
24
              THE COURT: All right.
25
              MR. DRATEL: Your Honor, he has one conviction.
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signatures.

Proceedings He served his time and was deported. So it's not -- as far as criminal history, it's limited to one conviction. His family is here. His wife and three children, although his youngest is out with the middle child because he was making some noise during the prior case. And his mother-in-law is here, too. His mother-in-law is also willing to put up property, the home that she has and there's enough equity, I think, to cover a bond and I think that given -- we can also get some additional signatures. We could probably get a half dozen

5

This is someone who is living open -- as the complaint makes clear, he's living open and notoriously as himself with his own I.D. in the United States and there's other information that I would like to share with the Court. I can't do it in open court. I need at least a side-bar, I would like off the record at first and to see how we handle this.

MR. HARRIS: Your Honor, I know what the (indiscernible) is referencing.

MR. DRATEL: Well, I don't know what the government is referencing. There's another assistant here who would know what I am talking about but he decided not to be here when I spoke to him outside. Не ran away and he hasn't come back. So I don't know. Ι

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6
                            Proceedings
 1
   would like to -- this is important for purposes of this
 2
   proceeding.
 3
              MR. HARRIS: Your Honor, given the reference to
   another assistant, it may make sense to do a brief second
 4
 5
   call, so I can speak with the assigned assistant and
 6
   determined what exactly is being said.
 7
              MR. DRATEL: No, he knows. It's revealed.
 8
   knows. He poked his head in and then I spoke to him and
   he wanted to talk to someone else, another lawyer who --
 9
10
              THE CLERK: Well, maybe Keith --
11
              MR. DRATEL: -- Mr. Skoro does not want to
12
    represent --
13
              THE CLERK: -- knows about it because --
14
              MR. DRATEL: There's a back story here.
15
              THE COURT: I gather that and I am
16
   uncomfortable having an off-the-record discussion.
17
              MR. DRATEL: Well, at least sealed.
18
              MR. HARRIS: I'm sorry, your Honor, if I may.
19
              THE CLERK: Okay.
20
              MR. EDELMAN: I was just actually trying to
21
    discuss in relation to this case, I didn't realize this
22
   was the defendant. My name is Keith Edelman --
23
              THE CLERK:
                          Okay.
24
              THE COURT: Oh, okay, the other --
25
              MR. EDELMAN: -- on behalf of the United
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7
                            Proceedings
   States. Apologies for not being here present right now.
 1
 2
   Just to jump right into it, we think there's a conflict
 3
   of interest here before proceeding with today's
   arraignment and would ask that CJA counsel be appointed
 4
 5
   for purposes of today.
 6
              Mr. Zissou has previously represented this
 7
   defendant. He's unavailable to be here today but has
 8
   stated he can be available starting tomorrow and so we
   would just ask that today, that retained counsel not be
 9
10
   appointed for today.
11
              MR. DRATEL: This is a scam. This is a scam on
12
   the Court because they know that he doesn't want to --
13
   this is who represented him in a capacity -- I would like
14
   to discuss this but I can't do it on the record.
15
   can't.
16
              THE COURT: I --
17
              MR. DRATEL: I legally can't. I mean, I could
18
   do it in a sealed proceeding, but I don't -- I --
19
              THE COURT: All right. Let's --
              MR. DRATEL: They're playing games.
20
21
              THE COURT: You have any --
22
              MR. DRATEL: That's why Shreve Ariail --
23
              THE COURT: Do you have any problem with
24
    sealing the courtroom and we can have an on-the-record
25
   discussion?
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8
                            Proceedings
 1
              MR. EDELMAN:
                            That's all right. Honestly, I
   would rather have an ex parte sealed discussion to
 2
 3
   explain the conflict.
              MR. DRATEL: Well, why don't you -- no, I know
 4
 5
   what conflict they're claiming. I would be happy to -- I
 6
   know exactly what it is and I know exactly how it is
 7
   going to be resolved --
 8
              MR. EDELMAN: Then there won't be any surprise.
 9
              MR. DRATEL: -- in terms of legally. I would
10
   hope to be resolved but -- so it doesn't have to be ex
11
   parte and -- but I can't do certain things on the record
12
   and as soon as I get into it, you'll understand exactly
13
   why.
14
              MR. EDELMAN: Your Honor, I would just ask for
15
   the opportunity just to speak ex parte under seal to
16
    explain the conflict and why we don't think arraignment
17
    should proceed with retained counsel today and that
18
   whether it's Mr. Zissou or some other CJA appointed
19
    counsel, Federal Defenders also has a conflict.
20
              THE COURT: So you want to have a conversation
21
   with me ex parte.
22
              MR. EDELMAN: Correct.
23
              MR. DRATEL: And I object.
24
              MR. EDELMAN: And I will proffer the basis for
25
   the conflict.
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9
                            Proceedings
              MR. DRATEL: And I object.
1
 2
              THE COURT: And you want to have a conversation
 3
   with me ex parte --
 4
              MR. DRATEL: No, not necessarily ex parte.
 5
              THE CLERK: No.
 6
              THE COURT: -- or just sealed?
 7
              THE CLERK: Yes.
 8
              MR. DRATEL: Just sealed. The government --
 9
   they know, maybe not the assistant who stepped in but now
10
   Mr. Edelman is here because Shreve Ariail went and called
11
   him because outside when I said to Mr. Ariail, I said I
12
   represent Mr. Skoro and he said, "Well what about Steve
13
    Zissou?" And I said, "He doesn't want Steve Zissou.
14
   wants me." And I've had a year-long representation of
15
   Mr. Skoro. This is a year long now since last spring.
16
              So he said, "Well, I've got to go call Mr.
17
    Zissou."
             I said, "Well, he doesn't represent him. Why
18
   don't you speak to" --
19
              THE COURT: All right. Here's what --
20
              MR. DRATEL: -- I would just like to put this
21
   on the record, so this is --
22
              THE COURT: -- here's what we we're going to
23
   do.
24
              MR. DRATEL: Yeah.
25
              THE COURT: I want to seal the courtroom.
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                            Proceedings
 1
   I'm sorry, folks. All you folks in the gallery, you need
 2
   to go outside. Any -- I don't -- I want you to go
 3
   outside, too.
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Actually --
 4
 5
              THE CLERK: I guess Federal Defenders, too.
 6
              THE COURT: You guys want to make an
 7
   appearance?
 8
              THE CLERK: No, they're --
 9
              MR. HARRIS: I'll take over from here, Judge.
10
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not at the moment.
11
              MR. DRATEL: No, not at the moment. Mr.
12
    Jacobson is here for other reasons but not about this.
13
              THE COURT: All right. So why don't you guys
14
   go outside, too --
15
              THE CLERK: Yes.
16
              MR. DRATEL: Is there any reason why your
17
   colleagues need to be here or --
              MR. EDELMAN: I don't think there's a reason to
18
19
   be here and just to be safe, your Honor, I would ask that
20
   the -- everyone aside from myself, the defendant,
21
   necessary court personnel and defense counsel be here.
22
              THE COURT: All right. Sounds good.
23
              THE CLERK: Should I get out?
24
              THE COURT: It's a bit unusual.
25
              THE CLERK: I'll go out.
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11 Proceedings 1 THE COURT: No, court personnel stay. So does 2 pretrial. 3 THE CLERK: Okay. Thank you. (Unsealed portion concludes at 3:27 p.m.) 4 5 (Unsealed portion begins at 4:05 p.m.) 6 THE COURT: All right. Here's what I am going 7 to do. And you can try to dissuade me from doing this if 8 either of you think it's wrong. I think these issues need to be dealt with and they need to be dealt with 9 10 appropriate filings. I am going to remand Mr. Skoro with 11 leave to reopen and present a bail package. As I said, 12 it doesn't make a difference if it's a temporary order or 13 a permanent order. You need to get your sureties. 14 need to do all that. 15 Notwithstanding that the vast majority of 16 illegal reentry cases that I have, the defendants don't 17 make bond, they have. With other judges, they have, too. 18 So there's at least a possibility for a bond. But you've 19 got to get all your ducks in a row before that. So I am going to sign a permanent order of 20 21 detention with leave to reopen and present a bail package 22 in the future. 23 My suggestion is that -- we have to deal with 24 the issue of preliminary hearing. If Mr. Skoro wants one 25 or not. And you can let me know in a moment.

Proceedings

But I think the government has to make a motion to disqualify Mr. Dratel, on notice. If there are things that you do not want to say, then you don't say them and you run the risk that the application is not sufficient.

Mr. Dratel should have the opportunity to respond to that. That can be handled in the first instance by whoever is on duty at the time the motion is filed. I think -- I really think it's beyond the purview of a magistrate judge to disqualify an attorney in a criminal case. I think it's better handled by the miscellaneous judge, the district judge.

So that may mean that, you know -- this is an unindicted case. You could go seek an indictment. Have a judge assigned. Or just file a motion with the miscellaneous judge right away. I don't -- it's six to one, half a dozen of the other.

Does Mr. Skoro want a preliminary hearing? I know that sort of forces the government's hand.

MR. DRATEL: Yeah, but you know strategically from my perspective, we'll wait till the 30th day on that.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. EDELMAN: I'm not in a rush to force their hand. I know (indiscernible).

THE COURT: This bond that you gave me -- Sumae

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13
                            Proceedings
1
   it says ICE detainer lodged?
 2
              THE CLERK:
                          Oh, what?
 3
              THE COURT: Do we know that?
              THE CLERK: I don't.
 4
 5
              THE COURT: Okay.
 6
              THE CLERK: Because he refused to be
 7
   interviewed, so --
 8
              THE COURT: Well, we could search anyway,
 9
   right, without it but it doesn't look like there was one.
10
   But in light of the pending -- the nature of the charges
11
   and Mr. Skoro's lack of status, I think a permanent order
12
   is appropriate with leave to reopen and present a bail
13
   package.
14
              MR. EDELMAN: Your Honor, I just ask for one
15
   additional item. Can we just have a second call on this,
16
   just so I can confer with supervisors again, just to
17
    determine -- because I know if Mr. Skoro is sent back and
18
   we're not able to go back before say the miscellaneous
19
   judge right now, I would just ask for a little bit of
20
   time to confer with them to see whether we want to rush
21
    to the miscellaneous judge right now while Mr. Skoro is
22
    still here, Mr. Dratel is here --
23
              THE COURT: Well, what --
24
              MR. DRATEL: (Indiscernible) papers?
25
              THE COURT: There's nothing --
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Proceedings

14

1 MR. EDELMAN: We would be filing perhaps very 2 quickly draft a letter or orally submit our motion to 3 disqualify Mr. Dratel with the miscellaneous judge and I would just ask that we be given a little bit of time to 4 5 confer as to whether we want to do that immediately, 6 right now, with Mr. Skoro still here or if we're willing 7 to say, you know, write it tonight and let Mr. Dratel's 8 representation proceed until the motion is adjudicated. 9 MR. DRATEL: The Court has ordered that they 10 file it in writing. I need the opportunity to respond. 11 I'm not going to draft it on the courthouse on my phone. 12 THE COURT: Okay. 13 MR. EDELMAN: Your Honor, right now I would ask 14 for a second call. 15 MR. DRATEL: There's no reason not to go 16 forward. 17 MR. EDELMAN: I ask for a second call right 18 now, so I can --19 MR. DRATEL: Under the (indiscernible) -- there 20 is nothing to go forward under the circumstances that the 21 Court has set forth. I mean, I don't know what else to 22 say when I'm not, you know, privy to what has been -- I 23 also would move to obviously unseal or open the ex parte 24 part. I'm going to do that as a formality because 25 obviously I want access to that because number one, it's

15 Proceedings 1 about him, it's about me. I don't believe there's 2 anything in it that I don't know, that he doesn't know. So -- and if there is, then it's not a conflict. 3 not in either of our heads. It's not a conflict. 4 5 THE COURT: Well, I am not sure that that --6 that I agree with that because there may be a conflict 7 with -- well, I don't want to say anything because the government did make that application ex parte. I take 8 that very seriously. I think you need to raise it with 9 10 the miscellaneous judge. I think you need to do it on 11 I really do. You know, it --12 MR. EDELMAN: I understand, your Honor. 13 literally just ask --14 THE COURT: What's going to happen between now 15 and tomorrow, whoever is working the case. It's not your 16 -- is it your case? 17 MR. EDELMAN: This case is mine. 18 THE COURT: All right. Other than the, you 19 know, ten other things you have to do between now and 20 tomorrow --21 MR. EDELMAN: Your Honor, I simply ask for a 22 short very period of time to confer with my supervisors 23 to determine whether we may wish to, despite your Honor's 24 ruling that the motion must be made in writing, whether 25 we can go to the miscellaneous judge and if he or she

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16
                            Proceedings
   were to accept that it be adequate --
1
 2
              THE COURT: I can make it even easier. I mean
 3
   -- I don't know if that's easier.
              MR. DRATEL: Your Honor, I don't understand.
 4
 5
   The Court ordered. They keep going.
 6
              MR. EDELMAN: Your Honor, I ask for a stay of
 7
   that order.
 8
              MR. DRATEL: They've had plenty of time. He
 9
   was out there for twenty minutes texting with all of his
10
   people.
            This is stalling tactic. Let's get moving.
11
   This guy's in jail. Let's get moving.
12
              MR. EDELMAN: Your Honor, the defendant is not
13
    going anywhere as your Honor ordered.
14
              MR. DRATEL: That's right.
              THE COURT: So if --
15
16
              MR. EDELMAN: I ask for fifteen minutes.
17
              MR. DRATEL: Why --
18
              THE COURT: I'll give you ten.
19
                            Thank you, your Honor.
              MR. EDELMAN:
20
              THE COURT: I mean --
              MR. DRATEL: I understand the Court ordered --
21
22
    (Recess from 4:12 p.m., until 4:23 p.m.)
23
              THE CLERK: We're back on the record in open
24
    court.
25
              THE COURT: All right.
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17 Proceedings THE CLERK: Yes. 1 2 THE COURT: So to recap, I ordered Mr. Skoro to 3 be remanded with leave to reopen and present a bail package in the future. I initially said I would like the 4 5 government to make its motion to disqualify in writing 6 and Mr. Skoro also waived a preliminary hearing. 7 MR. DRATEL: To the 30th day. THE COURT: To the 30th day. Now --8 9 MR. EDELMAN: Thank you, your Honor, also for 10 the indulgence for the opportunity to consult. I've 11 consulted with the supervisors and we're willing to make 12 our position known and phrase it as we would like in a 13 written submission to the miscellaneous judge, which is I 14 believe is in accordance with your wishes. 15 THE COURT: How soon can you make that motion? 16 MR. EDELMAN: We can certainly make it by the 17 end of the week, shorter if your Honor would like. 18 THE COURT: How much time do you need to 19 respond? 20 MR. DRATEL: It depends on the -- depends on 21 two things. One, it depends on the length --22 THE COURT: How extensive it is. 23 MR. DRATEL: Well, it depends on the length of 24 the -- of what it is and the second is whether it's going 25 to have stuff that's ex parte or who knows what's going

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18
                            Proceedings
 1
   to be in it? I don't know. I mean, it's an issue. You
 2
   know, I have no clue other than it's without merit.
 3
              THE COURT: Uhm.
              MR. DRATEL: When I say no clue, it's not a
 4
 5
   clue about what they claim is a conflict, no clue how it
 6
   makes it conflict.
 7
              THE COURT: Okay. The government to make its
 8
   application by Friday. I mean -- so it's going to be a
 9
   different miscellaneous judge next week. Right?
              THE CLERK: I don't know who it is actually. I
10
11
   could find out -- for next week?
12
              MR. DRATEL: I'm away Monday, Tuesday and
13
   Wednesday of next week. I have to go to Wyoming County
14
   in Elmira to interview witnesses in the New York State
15
    System, so it's not a --
16
              THE COURT: All right.
17
              MR. DRATEL: -- it's not the optimal trip.
18
              THE COURT: Friday, the following Friday?
19
              MR. DRATEL: Yeah.
20
              THE COURT: All right. The following Friday.
21
   So it may be even a different miscellaneous judge because
22
    they're not going to get to it that --
23
              MR. DRATEL: Right.
24
              THE COURT: -- you know, promptly. So it would
25
   be on the Monday after that, probably.
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19
                            Proceedings
1
              MR. DRATEL:
                           Yes.
 2
              MR. EDELMAN: Sorry, just so I am clear.
                                                         The
 3
   government submitted --
              THE CLERK: So the 18th, right, the following
 4
 5
   Friday?
 6
              THE COURT:
                          So Friday is the 4th.
 7
              THE CLERK:
                          Right.
              THE COURT: You submit it the 4th.
 8
 9
              THE CLERK: And then you --
10
              THE COURT: And then Mr. Dratel will respond on
11
   the 11th.
12
                          Oh, the 11th, okay. By 11 --
              THE CLERK:
13
              THE COURT: And then --
14
              MR. DRATEL: The judge will --
15
              THE COURT: I don't know -- I'm sorry, but I
16
   don't know the procedure for getting on the miscellaneous
17
   judge's calendar. It's not something that I do.
18
              MR. EDELMAN: My understanding is sometimes the
19
   miscellaneous judge will keep it but I am not sure. If
20
   they pick it up the first motion is made to that judge,
21
   he or she may --
22
              MR. DRATEL: We'll see whoever it is next week.
23
              MR. EDELMAN: -- keep it.
24
              THE COURT: That's fine.
25
              MR. EDELMAN: And, sorry, Judge, I just wanted
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20 Proceedings 1 to -- we were talking briefly about the proceeding after 2 the ex parte before this proceeding, there was a slight 3 colloquy when I asked for the time to consult, my only concern is that there was some discussion about, even 4 5 just the general nature of the conflict, although not 6 specifics, that had to be done ex parte certainly, but 7 still concerned as to whether that proceeding should just 8 be under seal, ordered under seal and kept between the government and defense. 9 10 THE COURT: I don't think there was anything 11 after this issue was raised that was in public. It was 12 either -- it was a sealed courtroom. We had a discussion 13 on the record. Then I asked Mr. Dratel to leave and Mr. 14 Skoro went back. And it was just your ex parte 15 Then we came back and no one was in the 16 courtroom. 17 MR. EDELMAN: That's my recollection. 18 MR. DRATEL: I don't recall. 19 THE COURT: So then -- and I don't think we had 20 too much substantive discussion, if any. 21 MR. DRATEL: Right. I don't think anything has 22 to be sealed that really shouldn't be sealed. I don't 23 think sealing is the presumption. Open court is the 24 presumption.

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THE COURT: Yeah.

25

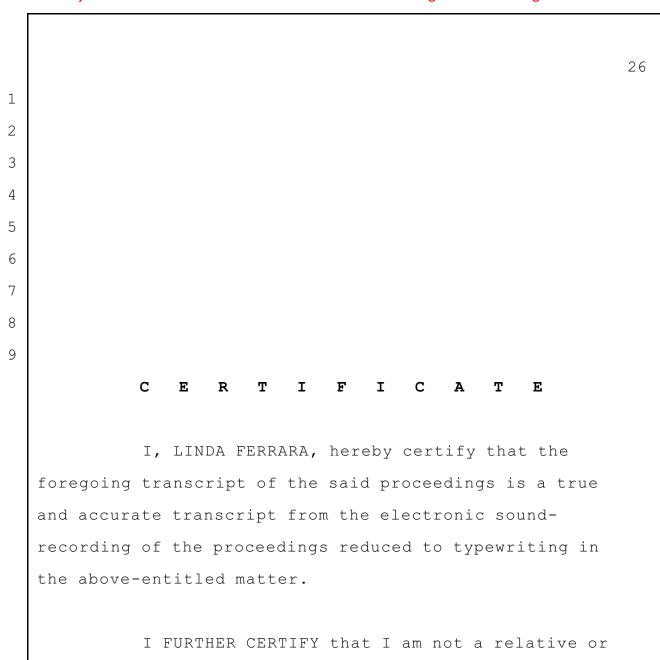
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21
                            Proceedings
              MR. EDELMAN: Of course.
 1
 2
              MR. DRATEL: I know what was discussed. What
 3
   was discussed was I said is that -- what I said is that,
   "It's not in my head and it's not in his head and I
 4
 5
   don't see how it could be a conflict."
              And the Court said, "Well, not necessarily,"
 6
 7
   and then you said, "Well maybe I shouldn't go any
 8
    further." And to me that is not disclosing anything --
 9
              THE COURT: Yeah.
              MR. DRATEL: -- that should be on the record.
10
11
              THE COURT: I'm not concerned with it.
12
              MR. DRATEL: Yes.
13
              MR. EDELMAN: Okay. Thank you, your Honor.
14
              THE CLERK: Okay, thank you.
15
              THE COURT: All right.
16
              MR. DRATEL: Enough, enough, you know, off the
17
   record (indiscernible).
              THE CLERK: Thank you.
18
19
              MR. DRATEL: Okay.
20
    (Recess from 4:28 p.m., until 4:29 p.m.)
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- Mr. Dratel is found
21
22
   to be conflicted, that the government is going to make an
23
   application that CJA counsel rather than Federal
24
   Defenders be appointed, we would ask to be heard and have
25
   a separate conflict proceeding as to that. I assert
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22 Proceedings 1 myself now because if it proceeds ex parte and under 2 seal, we wouldn't know at which point to do that. 3 So I want to put on the record that Federal Defenders would like to also have a conflict proceeding 4 5 if the government intends to take that position if Mr. 6 Dratel is determined to be conflicted. It's my 7 understanding that they have a CJA lawyer they would like 8 to represent Mr. Skoro --9 THE COURT: That's not -- I don't know how that 10 would happen. You don't get to pick their --11 MR. DRATEL: Oh, they did. 12 THE COURT: You don't get to pick his lawyer. 13 MR. DRATEL: No, but they had the guy --14 THE COURT: Yeah, but that's fine. They can 15 have, you know, Clarence Darrow here and but we appoint 16 who we're going to appoint, pursuant to our normal 17 practice. I don't think he's related to you but --18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible). 19 THE COURT: -- maybe he is, who knows? 20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can only hope. 21 only concern was exactly what you voiced, which is the 22 government had represented that they believed there was a 23 particular CJA lawyer who should be on the case and that 24 gave me concern, as opposed to either us or the random 25 CJA lawyer, as opposed to a hand-selected one by the

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23
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1
   government. So I would ask that --
 2
              THE COURT: I thought it was that you -- you
 3
   want the Federal Defenders to be appointed?
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would like us to be
 4
 5
   appointed if --
 6
              THE COURT: And that's the default.
 7
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is the default,
 8
   your Honor.
 9
              THE COURT: If Mr., you know -- I mean the
10
   question is raised is Mr. Skoro can afford to retain Mr.
11
   Dratel, why should we be appointing CJA or Federal
12
   Defenders.
13
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right. So that's a
14
   separate question, of course, but if we end up --
15
              THE COURT: Interrelated.
16
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- disqualification --
17
              THE COURT: So you put in your letter to the
18
   miscellaneous judge that the Federal Defenders wants the
19
   opportunity to be heard on should the motion be granted,
20
   who gets appointed to represent Mr. Skoro.
21
              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, your Honor.
              MR. EDELMAN: We'll include that.
22
23
              THE COURT: All right.
24
              THE CLERK: All right.
25
              MR. DRATEL: Your Honor, I am just curious
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24
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   about the status of the detention hearing in the sense
 2
   that so if I have --
 3
              THE COURT: You can come back at any point in
   time and make a pitch to be -- for a bond, if you have
 4
 5
   all your sureties and all that. Understand though that
 6
   it's likely to be faced with whoever is going to be on --
 7
   I mean, you could come back tomorrow and try it with me
 8
   but I am going to tell you let's hold off and let's see
   what happens.
 9
10
              MR. DRATEL: I won't do it just for that
11
   purpose but -- yes.
12
              THE COURT: But until this motion is heard, I
13
    don't think any of us would entertain that application.
14
              MR. DRATEL: And the Court understands as I
15
    stated before, that I think that that is an
16
   unconstitutional -- an infringement on the right to bail,
17
    so that I would object to any delay based on that motion,
18
   interfering with the bail because the government,
19
   regardless of what they said ex parte, certainly has --
20
              THE COURT: Make --
21
              MR. DRATEL: -- made a point -- that somehow it
22
   interferes with bail, as the Court itself noted, you
23
    know, that why that would interfere with bail is a
24
    separate question.
25
              THE COURT: If you --
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25
                           Proceedings
              MR. DRATEL: We'll be back before this motion
 1
 2
   is teed up.
 3
              THE COURT: That's fine. That's
 4
   fine.
 5
              MR. EDELMAN:
                           That's fine. I would just note I
 6
   think that issue is not ripe at all right now to decide,
 7
   whether holding detention --
 8
              THE COURT: I'm not --
 9
              MR. EDELMAN: -- pending that motion is --
10
              THE COURT: Come back whenever you're ready,
11
   whenever you think you have a sufficient bail package to
12
   present to whomever is sitting in the chair. All right?
13
              MR. EDELMAN: Thank you, your Honor.
14
              MR. DRATEL: Thank you, your Honor.
                        (Matter concluded)
15
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                              -000-
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I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested directly or indirectly in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 5th day of March, 2016.

	27
Linda Ferrara	
CET**D 656 Transcriptions Plus II, Inc.	